



April 25, 2005

Indictment charges three men with Drug-trafficking conspiracy

A federal grand jury has charge three men with drug-trafficking conspiracy and related firearms offenses. The indictment supplants complaints in which the three defendants – **Robert Nardolillo, Anthony Gobbi, and Clifford Falla**, were accused of providing security for large shipments of purported cocaine moving through Rhode Island in 2001.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Colonel Steven M. Pare, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, and Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, jointly announced a five-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on April 20 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

The indictment charges all three defendants with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine between June 2000 and August 2001. It also charges them with two counts of attempting to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and two counts of possessing a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking offense.

According to an FBI affidavit supporting complaints that were lodged on March 30, Nardolillo arranged for Falla and Gobbi to provide security for two shipments of purported cocaine in 2001, a 17-kilogram shipment on April 30 and an 11-kilogram shipment on

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August 22. According to the affidavit, the purported cocaine shipper who hired Nardolillo to provide security was actually an undercover FBI agent.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The penalties for the offenses charged in the indictment are: conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and attempting to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine – ten years to life imprisonment plus a maximum \$4,000,000 fine; possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense – a consecutive term of imprisonment, with a minimum of five years for the first count and 25 years for the second count, plus a \$250,000 fine.

All three defendants were arrested on the basis of the complaints and will be arraigned on the indictment in U.S. District Court, Providence. Nardolillo, 47, of 28 Delmar Road, Providence, is free on \$250,000 bond. Gobbi, 35, of 16 Marion Street, Boston, and Falla, 47, of 42 College Road, Wolfboro, New Hampshire, are held in lieu of bail at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls.

The **Federal Bureau of Investigation, Rhode Island State Police, and Providence Police** participated in the investigation. **Boston Police** and **Wolfboro (NH) Police** provided assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey is prosecuting the case.